Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application, where claims 11-12, 19-20, 26, 28, 30, 34 and 38 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 9, 13-15, 17, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31-33, 37 and 39-40 have been amended as follows:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A wireless network, comprising:

a radio network controller; and

a wireless terminal,

wherein said radio network controller is operable to transmit a first message to said wireless terminal, the first message being indicative of an initiation of a cipher key change, ~~and~~

wherein said terminal is operable to transmit an acknowledge command to said radio network controller, said acknowledge command for preventing the radio network controller from re-transmitting the first message after a specified period of time;

wherein said wireless terminal is operable to transmit a second message to said radio network controller subsequent to a reception of the first message by said wireless terminal, the second message being coded with a new cipher key as an acknowledgement of the cipher key change by said wireless terminal

wherein said radio network controller is operable to transmit a third message to said wireless terminal immediately upon reception of the second message by said radio network controller, the third message being indicative of a deciphering by said radio network controller of the second message with the new cipher key

wherein the third message is coded with the new cipher key as an indication that said radio network controller deciphered the second message with the new cipher key.

10. (Previously Presented) The wireless network of claim 9, wherein the first message includes the new cipher key.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The wireless network of claim 9, wherein said radio network controller includes means for verifying a use of the new cipher key by said wireless terminal subsequent to a reception of the second message by said radio network controller.

14. (Currently Amended) The wireless network of claim 9, wherein said radio network controller and said wireless terminal include means for synchronizing a conversion from an old cipher key to the new cipher key.

15. (Currently Amended) The wireless network of claim 9, wherein said radio network controller is operable to transmit a third message to said wireless terminal subsequent to a reception of the second message by said radio network controller, the third message being indicative of a failure by said radio network controller to decipher the second message with the new cipher key.

16. (Previously Presented) The wireless network of claim 15, wherein the third message is coded with an old cipher key as an indication that said radio network controller failed to decipher the second message with the new cipher key.

17. (Currently Amended) A radio network controller, comprising:

means for transmitting a first message to a wireless terminal, the first message being indicative of an initiation of a cipher key change; ~~and~~

means for receiving an acknowledge command from the wireless terminal subsequent to the transmission of the first message to the wireless terminal, the acknowledge command preventing the radio network controller from re-transmitting the first message to the wireless terminal after a specified period of time;

means for receiving a second message from the wireless terminal subsequent to a reception of the first message by the wireless terminal [NOTE TO EXAMINER: I don't know if I am reading this clause wrong, but it doesn't make sense to me, namely, "subsequent to a reception of the first message", shouldn't it read, "subsequent to the transmission of the first message", the second message being coded with a new cipher key as an acknowledgement of the cipher key change by the wireless terminal

means for transmitting a third message to the wireless terminal immediately upon receipt of the second message by said radio network controller, the third message being indicative of a deciphering by said radio network controller of the second message with the new cipher key

wherein the third message is coded with the new cipher key as an indication that said radio network controller deciphered the second message with the new cipher key.

18. (Previously Presented) The radio network controller of claim 17, wherein the first message includes the new cipher key.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The radio network controller of claim 17, wherein said radio network controller further includes means for verifying a use of the new cipher key by said wireless terminal subsequent to a reception of the second message by said radio network controller.

22. (Previously Presented) The radio network controller of claim 17, wherein said radio network controller includes means for synchronizing a conversion from an old cipher key to the new cipher key.

23. (Currently Amended) The radio network controller of claim 17, wherein said radio network controller further includes means for transmitting a third message to the wireless terminal subsequent to a reception of the second message by said radio network controller, the third message being indicative of a failure by said radio network controller to decipher the second message with the new cipher key.

24. (Previously Presented) The radio controller network of claim 23, wherein the third message is coded with an old cipher key as an indication that said radio network controller failed to decipher the second message with the new cipher key.

25. (Currently Amended) A wireless terminal, comprising:

means for receiving a first message from a radio network controller, the first message being indicative of an initiation of a cipher key change; ~~and~~

means for receiving an acknowledge command from the wireless terminal subsequent to the transmission of the first message to the wireless terminal, the acknowledge command preventing the radio network controller from re-transmitting the first message to the wireless terminal after a specified period of time;

means for transmitting a second message to the radio network controller subsequent to a reception of the first message by the wireless terminal, the second

message being coded with a new cipher key as an acknowledgement of the cipher key change by the wireless terminal

means for receiving a third message from the radio network controller immediately upon receiving the second message by the radio network controller, the third message being indicative of one of a failure by the radio network controller to decipher the second message with the new cipher key and a deciphering by the radio network controller of the second message with the new cipher key.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The wireless terminal of claim 25, wherein said wireless terminal includes means for synchronizing a conversion from an old cipher key to the new cipher key.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a wireless network including a radio network controller and a wireless terminal, the method comprising:

the radio network controller transmitting a first message to the wireless terminal, the first message being indicative of an initiation of a cipher key change involving an old cipher key and a new cipher key; and

the radio network controller receiving an acknowledge command from the wireless terminal subsequent to the transmission of the first message to the wireless terminal, the acknowledge command preventing the radio network controller from re-transmitting the first message to the wireless terminal after a specified period of time;

the wireless terminal transmitting a second message to the radio network controller subsequent to a reception of the first message by the wireless terminal from the radio network controller, the second message being coded with one of the old cipher key

or the new cipher key as an acknowledgement of the cipher key change by the wireless terminal

the radio network controller transmitting a third message to the wireless terminal immediately upon receipt of the second message by the radio network controller from the wireless terminal, the third message being coded with one of the old cipher key or the new cipher key as an indication of one of a successful termination or an unsuccessful termination of the cipher key change.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

the radio network controller and the wireless terminal validating the new cipher key.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

the radio network controller and the wireless terminal synchronizing a conversion of the old cipher key to the new cipher key.

33. (Currently Amended) A radio network controller, comprising:

means for transmitting a first message to a wireless terminal, the first message being indicative of an initiation of a cipher key change involving an old cipher key and a new cipher key; ~~and~~

means for receiving an acknowledge command from the wireless terminal subsequent to the transmission of the first message to the wireless terminal, the acknowledge command preventing the radio network controller from re-transmitting the first message to the terminal after a specified period of time;

means for receiving a second message from the wireless terminal subsequent to a reception of the first message by the wireless terminal from the radio network controller,

the second message being coded with one of the old cipher key or the new cipher key as an acknowledgement of the cipher key change by the wireless terminal

means for transmitting a third message to the wireless terminal subsequent to a reception of the second message by the radio network controller from the wireless terminal, the third message being coded with one of the old cipher key or the new cipher key as an indication of one of a successful termination or an unsuccessful termination of the cipher key change.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The radio network controller of claim 33, further comprising:

means for validating the new cipher key.

36. (Previously Presented) The radio network controller of claim 33, further comprising:

means for synchronizing a conversion of the old cipher key to the new cipher key.

37. (Currently Amended) A wireless terminal, comprising:

means for receiving a first message from a radio network controller, the first message being indicative of an initiation of a cipher key change involving an old cipher key and a new cipher key; ~~and~~

means for transmitting an acknowledge command from the wireless terminal subsequent to the transmission of the first message to the wireless terminal, the acknowledge command preventing the radio network controller from re-transmitting the first message to the wireless terminal after a specified period of time;

means for transmitting a second message to the radio network controller subsequent to a reception of the first message by the wireless terminal from the radio

network controller, the second message being coded with one of the old cipher key or the new cipher key as an acknowledgement of the cipher key change by the wireless terminal

means for receiving a third message from the radio network controller immediately upon receipt of the second message by the radio network controller from the wireless terminal, the third message being coded with one of the old cipher key or the new cipher key as an indication of one of a successful termination or an unsuccessful termination of the cipher key change.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) The wireless terminal of claim 37, further comprising:
means for validating the new cipher key.

40. (Currently Amended) The wireless terminal of claim 37, further comprising:
means for synchronizing a conversion of the old cipher key to the new cipher key.